recommended that transport cost and transit losses to the extent of one-third of the opening stocks of buffer be charged to the buffer carrying cost.

(ii) The Commission has felt that carry-over charges, namely charges paid to the State agencies involved in the procurement of wheat beyond 30th June every year, should be part of the buffer carrying cost rather than economic cost of wheat for public distribution.

(iii) The Commission has also recommended that the economic cost should be estimated on the basis of pooling of opening stocks available with the Food Corporation of India in the begining of the year and stocks procured during the current year, rather than being based on the minimum support price of the current year.

On account of these changes in the methodology, which have been accepted by Government, the economic cost of wheat and rice for public distribution have been revised to Rs. 830 per quintal for wheat instead of Rs. 900 per quintal as before and to Rs. 1,130 per quintal for rice instead of Rs. 1,180 per quintal as originally estimated.

Pressure on India and Pakistan to sign CTBT and NPT

†*277. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan are being pressurised by Russia to sign CTBT and NPT; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir, India is not being pressurised. The Ministry of External Affairs, however, cannot answer for Pakistan.

(b) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.